

# MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, FOR A SOCIETY OF FARMERS, AT QUINCY HALL, SOUTH MARKET STREET—WM. BUCKMINSTER, OF FRAMINGHAM, EDITOR.

NO. 2.

VOL. 4.

## A CONSOLIDATION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN AND THE YANKEE FARMER.

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JOHN HAYDOCK is Agent through New England.

## AGRICULTURE.

### Cattle Show at Monson.

On Tuesday the first of October the editor of this paper attended the Show at Monson, in the county of Hampshire. There are four or five towns associated with the show, whose farmers hold an annual meeting at Monson. They have but little formality in their proceedings; they bring their best cattle together, and, after a good dinner, the show begins. They shut their cows and young cattle in pens, and string their oxen out on the common, where they may be seen and handled.

They have not yet tried their skill in ploughing for premiums, though the Society contemplates doing it at a future date. We think it a good plan to plough at such meetings, occasionally, though we much doubt the propriety of having every year a parade of ploughing a new field. If the ploughing should be continued every other year the funds now expended for ploughing, in our county Societies, might be appropriated to bring forward much more stock of all descriptions in greater numbers than we usually find at shows.

There were thirty-eight yoke of oxen on the ground, and many of them were handsome cattle, as we find in any direction. A number of yoke were brought from Palmer, but most of them belonged to Monson. There were some likely young cattle and a few cows. Two large bulls of the Durham breed were on the ground, and there were two of the small Yorkshire breed that looked more fat than they really were. Some cows and young cattle were in an enclosure near by, where they could all be examined.

Here the owners and spectators could view the cattle on every side to better advantage than in private. They handled the cattle, conversed on their merits, weighed the whole string of oxen, and a committee awarded premiums on the most promising.

The apples and the quinces exhibited here were the largest we had then ever seen. Nothing in the Horticultural Rooms could compare with them in size. Some very substantial carpeting, rugs, and shawls of household manufacture, and some pretty needle work were exhibited. Some of these displayed the sign of Clay, and some of Polk, but when we left it had not been decided which was to have the highest premium.

The oxen were all red—the true Devons of New England. They were well formed—excellent for draft—kind in the yoke—sure as steel—hardly—casty kept—large enough and tall enough for any work. They were all yoke up—legs so short that a four foot fence will keep them—long enough for easy travel. When they are hungry they readily fill themselves—and when they fat look there is no deception in them, they are fat.

The cows of this breed are better for the dairy than any we have yet seen in New England. They will make more butter and cheese in proportion to their size than any that have yet been imported here at three or four hundred dollars a head.

Here then we find the materials for rearing blood animals—a race that bids fair to equal and to surpass any that have been bred in Europe. We have only to select and breed from the most promising. Here we have stock that excels in the yoke and also in the dairy—an important consideration with economical farmers who feel unable to keep two breeds of neat stock—Some yokes of young oxen weighed more than thirty hundred, and one yoke of four years old weighed over four thousand pounds.

Great fears were expressed that the cattle belonging to Capt. J. Tucker, who had a little short of thirty hundred, (we have not the exact weight), these were workers and had done much labor since haying. A premium was properly awarded to the owner.

The ladies, in pretty good numbers, sponsored the meeting with their presence. The speaker commended their good will, and gave the Society some good advice as to securing the attendance of the ladies at future exhibitions. He warned the Society, among other good things, that before they should arrive at his age they would find the ancient record true—"It is not good for man to be alone."

The Rev. Mr. Ely attended and made a prayer before the delivery of the address.

### HARVESTING—HARVESTING.

All hands are wanted now; the potatoes must be dug in the ground, and the fall corn be allowed to rot in the husk. Young men cut up the golden ears and let the old and feeble engage in the pretty work of stripping off the husks.

If you did not pick the earliest ears for seed while you could determine, in the field, which the earliest were, you will look sorry next summer when the weather is hardly hot enough to carry out the very best harvest from the earliest seeds. But you will select better ears now than you can next spring from the whole pile in the corn-barn.

Show away the husks without allowing any wet corn to be packed close; yet greenish husks may be packed, with alternate layers of dry straw, or dry meadow hay. If they mould a little they will not injure, cause some to like them, better for moulding. Don't let green husks lie in contact with the bare floor.

Give the cats a fair chance and you need not be troubled with mice in your corn-barn. One cat is worth a dozen traps; you must bait her a little, but she always sets herself, sprouts herself, and takes care of the game.

Can one man harvest ten bushels of corn in a day? That depends on the state of the ears and the goodness of the corn. A large ear is husked quicker than a small one; therefore have large ears when you can.

STRAWBERRIES. Dr. C. Dean, of South Plymouth, writes us that he set out 24 of Hovey's seedling strawberries on the 19th of November last, and that several of them produced fruit last summer, but that he put out about some of them, and these were the ones that bore fruit; the others bore none.

### CLOVER SEED.

Capt. Joel Tucker, of Monson, showed us, last week, a fine lot of northern clover seed of his own raising. It is very clean and nice. Mr. Tucker says he gets more profit from it than the hay would yield him, calling clover hay seven dollars a ton.

When the land is quite rich you may cut the first growth for hay, about the last of June, after half the heads are out. Then you may have a crop for seed. The rows have much more seed than the first cut.

There is a machine in Monson for cleaning clover seed; but when you raise it for your own use you need no machine. Use the chaff and the seed together. Mr. T. has his clover seed trod out by oxen on the barn floor.

The last Amherst Express contains an interesting article, which we attribute to Professor Hitchcock, on the cause of the extraordinary and disastrous failure of the potato crop at the present season.

He expresses the opinion, that the failure of the potato crop this year is the result of drought. And, by way of showing how he comes to this conclusion, he remarks, that the tops failed first, and appeared as if they had endured hard frosts. And as it is in the leaves and stalks that the juices and principles that nourish the roots and tubers are prepared, if these fail, the potatoes must be stopped in their growth. They do not ripen, and, of course, are liable to decay. Like all unripe fruit, they are unsound and unhealthy.

He expresses doubt in regard to the cause of the disease. He thinks, however, it must be something derived from the atmosphere, since it is so widespread. He inclines to the opinion, that the season has been too wet for this crop, though by reference to Professor Snell's register of the amount of rain that has fallen in Amherst, during the months of June, July, and August, he finds the quantity to be less than for two years past. Still, though he doubts not the entire accuracy of Professor Snell's account, he is certain that his own garden suffered exceedingly from drought during the last three years, while this year it has been rather wet.

He reconciles the apparent discrepancy, by reference to the fact, that the rains have more equally spread through the season, than in two years previous; and hence, that the amount of rain has been too for this crop, in which to judge of the moisture and dryness of the soil. He is confident that the ground in this region has been too wet for potatoes; and he finds that in his land they have suffered less than in wet soil. He therefore infers, that it will be found, that in those parts of the country that have been dry, the potato crop will not suffer much in this way. He thinks it very possible, that the electric state of the atmosphere may have had something to do with the matter.

With regard to the supposed poisonous quality of potatoes affected by this malady, he remarks, that the whole string of oxen is sound and healthy, and that is about all that can be said concerning these potatoes. There is no peculiar error in them that need excite a panic. He thinks, however, that a poisonous quality of plants, cooking renders it harmless. And as there is no danger that man will eat potatoes raw, he needs have no fear of eating them, provided he rejects those that are water-soaked.

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### REPORT.

OF THE COMMITTEE ON SWINE, OF THE ESSEX AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

WE extract from the Report of the Committee on Swine in Essex County the following opinion, as it appears in the Salem Register.

The entries this year have been as follows: Mr. Joseph Andrews, of Essex, presented his pig, part Berkshire, 5-1-2 months old, weighing 190 lbs. This young porker is a very fine animal, very corpulent and very round shouldered—qualities which would be considered deformities in other young gentlemen, but which are essential to a pig's perfection. He appeared in thriving condition, and had the advantage of the annual offered by Mr. Williams, in being one month younger. The Committee award Mr. Andrews the first premium of \$5.00.

Mr. Paul D. Patch, of Hamilton, introduced the Committee to a mature sow, only a year old last May, which had with her four of her children. The Committee did not inquire after the rest of the family, but those present were a thriving company of young grunts, and gave much credit to their mother for the excellent manner in which she had reared them. The Committee did not inquire after the rest of the family, but those present were a thriving company of young grunts, and gave much credit to their mother for the excellent manner in which she had reared them.

Mr. Moses French, of East Salisbury, offered a litter of four pigs not quite 6 months old, weighing 700 lbs. This was a very interesting group of young porkers, of that indefinable size between pig and pork which rendered it very difficult to decide to which class they belonged; but the Committee, although they believe the hog produced, yet in the absence of any standard to decide the precise time when a pig ceases to be a pig and becomes a hog, have admitted their pighood, and awarded Mr. French the second premium of \$3.00.

Mr. William Williams, of Byfield Parish, Newbury, offered a breeding sow with 9 pigs, to which was awarded 1st premium of \$5.00. Dito, for two thousand three hundred and seventy-eight very corpulent dough-nuts. It only remains in closing this memoir to give some account of his manner of living; and here we cannot but express our admiration for the care and pains he has taken to rear his pigs, and we have the best of reasons for believing that like many others of that unhappy class, this was his misfortune and not his fault. He was equally unconcerned about his habits, and his carpet, although of home production had all the softness if not the variety of colors of the Brussels. He was irregular in his habits, eating when hungry, drinking when thirsty, and sleeping when inclined by nature to rest. Mr. Alley informed us with apparent sincerity that he subsisted on raw Indian meal and corn, and that he had no other food.

At the close of the year, the Committee were so well satisfied by a mere external examination of this breed of swine, that they awarded the two first premiums to Mr. Williams. It was however aware of the truth of the proverb that "the proof of the pudding is in the eating," and he accordingly tendered the chairman of this Committee a delicate portion of the prize pork for a more perfect test of its quality. In acknowledging the superiority of the pork, the Committee take occasion to recommend the example of Mr. Williams for the general imitation of the farmers of Essex. In making this recommendation, we hope no one will be disposed to raise the stale cry of "bribery and corruption." The Committee would resent such an imputation with indignation. It is rather to be influenced by such considerations, they would consent to be burned at the stake!

Byfield has become as celebrated for its breeds of swine as for her Dunmer School; and the many pupils of the latter have been looking back on their delightful shades and associations with pleasant remembrance to their science and swine, in letters as well as its letters, its pork and its philosophy.

Other places in the County are destined to immortality from associations connected with the swine race. Ipswich has done herself honor by giving the name of Hogtown to one of her places, and thus has attained a high place in swine husbandry. The town of Essex has also her Hog Island, on which have been raised some of the finest Chateaus in the country, and one of the most eminent eminences in the town of Danvers is known by the name of Hoghill.

Beverly has the enviable distinction of having the largest swine population in the county. By the last census she had 900 swine, which is several hundred more than any other town or city, and she is emphatically the banner town of the county for living pork. And why should it not be so? Beverly has long been celebrated for the excellencies of its beans, and there seems to be a kind of natural harmony in the union subsisting between these two admirable exquisites. What would be the vegetable without the oily richness of the animal substance? And what would be the animal without the vegetable? With these two great commodities, and clad in her brilliant armor, she may defy the world—but if ever she suffers her vines to languish and her poles to be driven into exile, it is to be feared that her glory will also depart.

Lynn, too, has her share of swinish honors, derived from the extraordinary merits of a single individual of the race, of whom the committee have it in their power to present a biographical sketch. We are indebted to Mr. J. M. Alley 3d, under whose patronage this individual was reared and educated, for some particulars of his life.

We shall omit his name, for the simple reason that he never had any parents probably thinking that without a name he would "smell as sweet." Of his origin we know but little, except that he was the son of his mother, who died suddenly when he was a few months old, and left him an early orphan. He became remarkable for his rapid growth, the excellence of his appetite, and soon arrived at that middle age of swinehood when his porkship appeared a living epitome of good nature and good living. He continued to expand in size until he became a Dread Nought, and was a member of the I. O. of Fat Fellows, and attained to the highest degree. His corpulence prevented him from travelling, and his calumny had never been to roam, he was familiar with the rest of the world, and modern grease.

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something like inconsistency, as is frequently the case with those who profess neutrality. He was in favor of protection, and was a strenuous advocate of home consumption. He also favored large Corporations, and at the same time was a strong advocate for retrenchment, and delighted in cutting down cellars. He never was a candidate for any public station, and it is believed that his modesty would prevent him from accepting of the offer of any office, from that of Committee on Swine down to the President of the United States.

Now, standing here, the event proved that he was not long for this world, and in his last extremity no friend was found to save him from the hand of the assassin. He died at the age of two years and six months. At the post mortem examinations of his remains it was found that his enormous bulk had reached the weight of more than *hundred pounds*. What prodigality of fatness was here! a single individual! The County of Essex challenges the world to produce his equal.

He was a good man, with few faults. By the following estimate from Mr. Alley, we are made acquainted with the value of his remains, considered merely as an article of domestic economy.

They would have furnished a public dinner for His Excellency the Governor, His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, the Executive Council, and all the Mayors and Aldermen of the three cities of the Commonwealth, and have supplied a second table of the School Committee and Common Council of the City of Salem—besides enabling this latter body to give a "cold shoulder" to the clergy.

They would also have provided fat and larders for the chorister of the City Government of Salem, on their annual visit to the harbor to congratulate the two Miners and Cat Island. Solid fat for one hundred and twenty-seven pounds of beef.

Liquid duto for five hundred and fifty-five pounds of fresh fish. Duto to saturate six hundred and seventy-four pounds of salt duto. Shortening for ninety-two superficial feet of short cake, and—

Dito, for two thousand three hundred and seventy-eight very corpulent dough-nuts. It only remains in closing this memoir to give some account of his manner of living; and here we cannot but express our admiration for the care and pains he has taken to rear his pigs, and we have the best of reasons for believing that like many others of that unhappy class, this was his misfortune and not his fault. He was equally unconcerned about his habits, and his carpet, although of home production had all the softness if not the variety of colors of the Brussels. He was irregular in his habits, eating when hungry, drinking when thirsty, and sleeping when inclined by nature to rest. Mr. Alley informed us with apparent sincerity that he subsisted on raw Indian meal and corn, and that he had no other food.

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### MANUFACTURES.

Carpeting. Mrs. John Pearson, Newbury, first premium \$5.00. Mary A. B. Smith, Ipswich, 2d do 3.00. Mrs. D. C. Houghton, Newburyport, stair carpeting, a premium.

Heath Rugs. Nancy Burdell, Beverly, 1st premium \$5.00. Mrs. Sprague, Ipswich, 2d do 3.00.

Hose. Mrs. Joseph Perkins, Newbury, (knot with left hand, unable to use right hand) first premium \$5.00.

Countrypants. Mrs. R. A. Gerrish, Newbury, first premium \$5.00. Harriet T. Preston, Salem, 2d premium \$3.00.

Wrought Lace. Hannah Ross, Ipswich, (in her 74th year) 1st premium \$5.00. Wrought work by children under 12 years old. Martha E. Stickle, Beverly, first premium \$5.00. Sarah E. Kimball, Andover, 2d do 3.00.

Brogan Shoes. Daniel Richards, Newbury, first premium \$5.00. Calfskin Shoes. John Varrell, Ipswich, first premium \$5.00.

Gravities. Sarah B. Page, Danvers—Elizabeth D. Barnes, Beverly—Mary Hilditch, do—Anna Cole do—Anna C. Foster do—Martha Porter, do—Edith Woodbury, do—Hannah R. Lord, Ipswich—Mrs. Daniel L. Hodgins, do—Mrs. John Pearson, Newbury—Almira Mason, Salisbury—Mary Ann Dodge, Woburn—Miss Cook, Newburyport—Elizabeth P. Pettigall, do—Mrs. D. C. Houghton, do and Elizabeth A. Stimpson, Danvers—each \$1.

Wrought work by children. Frances Smith, Salem, 50 cts—Mary E. Smith, do—Georgeanna Lee, Beverly, 50 cts—Susan Lord, do—Charlotte Woodbury, do—Ellen M. Walcott, do—Sarah M. Bray, Essex—Sarah L. Kimball, do—Sarah M. Shattell, do—50 cts.

Various Articles. Mrs. P. Pilsbury, Andover, table cover \$2—Hannah Jacobs, Danvers, focking and cotton work \$2—Frances C. F. Dodge, Ipswich, wrought cloth and travelling bag, 1—Sam'l Hunt, do—Hannah Jacobs, do—John A. Sanford, Portland, do, knit shawl and other articles, 2—John Kimball, Georgetown, specimens of Leather, 2—Daniel Ross, Ipswich, aged 87, work tables made since June last, 1—Mrs. A. H. Wilde, do chair covers, 1—Sarah E. Felt, Salem, chair bottoms, 50 cts—Mary A. Caldwell, Ipswich, specimens of painting, 50 cts—Laura A. Wood, do silk gowns, 1—Sophia Ordway, West Newbury, sewing silk, 2—Mrs. W. Lovett, Beverly, cord vases, 50 cts—Elizabeth P. Woodbury, do basket of wax fruit and flowers, \$1—Sophia B. Carter, Andover, do do do do do, 1—Angela A. B. Carter, do do do do do do do, 1—Jeane Brown, do swine tail set of whale bone, 1—Lucy Smith, do wrought bag and ottoman, 1—Margaret Parsons, do, travelling bag, 50 cts—Israel K. Jewett, do silk bag, 50 cts—Abigail C. Giddings, do cape and collar, \$1—Abigail Lovell, Andover, do do do do do do do do do, 1—Elizabeth Carter, do do do do do do do do do, 1—Lydia N. Dale, West Newbury, do—Elizabeth P. Paine, Ipswich, do do do do do do do, 1—Farley, do, travelling bag, 50 cts—Hannah Todd, Rowley, 82 years old, braided muslin, 50 cts.

In addition to the above, the following will be awarded by the Trustees, at their next meeting, when the Reports on Farms, Composts, Grain Crops, Root Crops, Fruit Trees, Forest, &c., will be presented for examination. The premiums are: Wm. Sutton, Esq., Treasurer, at the Commercial Bank, in Salem.

Sept. 26, 1844. ALLEN W. DODGE, Sec'y.

NEW AND EXTRAORDINARY COMPLAINT AMONGST CATTLE.

Some weeks back, we mentioned a new disease that had manifested itself amongst cows. The symptoms were suddenly attacked with diarrhoea, which terminated in death at a very short period. We have had an opportunity of gathering some interesting particulars of this strange malady. On many occasions, cattle grazing in the fields, and which appeared well, and healthy, were seized with the complaint, and died in a few hours. In one case, that of Mr. Johnson, of Chester, seven cows had died before Mr. Barth, the veterinary surgeon, could arrive. On the second day of his attack, the disease, without any preliminary symptoms, were attacked in the morning, and seventeen more in the afternoon: all of them were prostrate in their stalls, and the complaint was so general, that the disease, which seemed to have been confined to Chester, although not of a contagious character; and its origin may probably have been owing to the drought which deprived the grass of its nutritious qualities. The disease is attended with obstinate constipation, diffused inflammation of the most acute character, which destroys the mucous coats of the stomachs and alimentary canal, together with an effusion of serum into the bowels, and in some instances, the pericardium. The system altogether appears to undergo a gradual and destructive derangement, which time accelerates, and ends in the inflammatory attack which carries the poor creatures off.

Mr. Barth, the veterinary surgeon we have named, appears to have been very successful in the treatment of the disease, and he cured all Mr. Johnson's stock that he had an opportunity of seeing. He had recourse to immediate and copious bleeding, which generally left the animals in a state of stupor for some hours. Probably the change of weather, and the drought, developed itself will mitigate its malignant character; but somehow or other, at this time, the demon of destruction appears to be stalking through the farmers' flocks and herds. First came the epidemic, which seemed to have appeared; then pleuro pneumonia, and this formidable delirium, both of which are raging with three-fold; and the catalogue unfortunately does not end here. For in Bakewell an epidemic of the kind, for the sake of distinction, is termed "the new epidemic" has appeared. Mr. Gregory, a farmer there, at one fell swoop, lost 25 head by this new enemy. When this "new" disease first manifested itself, for the line of devastation appears to be from north to south, and the fatal pleuro pneumonia, which, at this period, is so prevalent there, we tremble for the owners of cattle. At this time, we understand that Mr. Smalley, of Collard, near Derby, has had above a dozen cases of pleuro pneumonia, of which half have proved fatal, and the remainder are fast sinking; but Mr. Smalley, with infinite foresight and prudence, had entered the Veterinary Association, and his judgment has been rewarded by the immediate payment of his losses by the London Society. [Mark Lane (London) Express.]

ASPARAGUS.

No vegetable is more generally esteemed than asparagus, and perhaps none more generally cultivated; yet its growth is not so well understood as it should be. Its cultivation is by no means difficult, and if pains are taken when planting, asparagus of the very best quality may be obtained.

In the Magazine of Horticulture some excellent articles have appeared upon its cultivation; and the following, from the second volume, is sufficient to guide any individual in the planting of a bed:

In the month of May, select a spot of ground sufficiently large to plan the number of rows intended; if the plantation is to be large, and intended for supplying the market, the ground should be plough







[illegible]



